



NRCS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Landowners Apply 1,000 Miles of Conservation Buffers...Ceremony To Be Held

Nashville, Tennessee, August 18, 2004 — James W. Ford with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced today that a Conservation Buffer Ceremony will be held Tuesday, August 24, 2004, beginning at 10:30 a.m. on the McNabb Farm in Fayette County, Tennessee. This ceremony is to highlight the efforts of landowners who have voluntarily applied over 1,000 miles of conservation buffers on private lands.

“We have been pleased with the number of landowners in Tennessee who have established conservation buffers that included Native Warm Season Grasses (NWSG’s),” Ford said. “NWSG’s, a wildlife friendly mixture good for Bobwhite quail and other wildlife species, have now become the most popular cover type for filter strips and field borders,” he added.

Cooperative efforts between the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and non-profit conservation groups such as Quail Unlimited have helped to increase landowner participation in USDA programs that favor wildlife friendly practices. These programs include the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and others.

The outdoor ceremony will be held on the McNabb Farm 4 miles west of Somerville, Tennessee on Highway 64, turn north on Warren Road, proceed approximately 1 mile to the event location on the right.

Conservation buffers are a common sense way to protect valuable land and demonstrate a personal commitment to conservation. Buffers simply are small areas or strips of land in permanent vegetation designed to slow and absorb runoff, pollutants, and chemicals. In addition to providing environmental benefits to soil, water, and air quality, buffers can also provide excellent habitat for bobwhite quail and other wildlife species when wildlife friendly vegetation is utilized. Native Warm Season Grasses (NWSG’s) such as switchgrass, big bluestem, indiangrass, and other species provide good cover for wildlife and are excellent for erosion control.

For additional information on the event or conservation buffers and programs to enhance wildlife habitat, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Somerville at 901/465-2631, Extension 3.

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The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

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